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PRINT

# RITUAL

OF THE

BRITISH AMERICAN ORDER

OF

# GOOD TEMPLARS:

EMBRACING THE FORMS OF

OPENING, CLOSING, INITIATION AND INSTALLATION

OF

SUBORDINATE LODGES,

UNDER THE

JURISDICTION OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE B. A. ORDER.

Revised November, 1859.

LONDON, C. W.:
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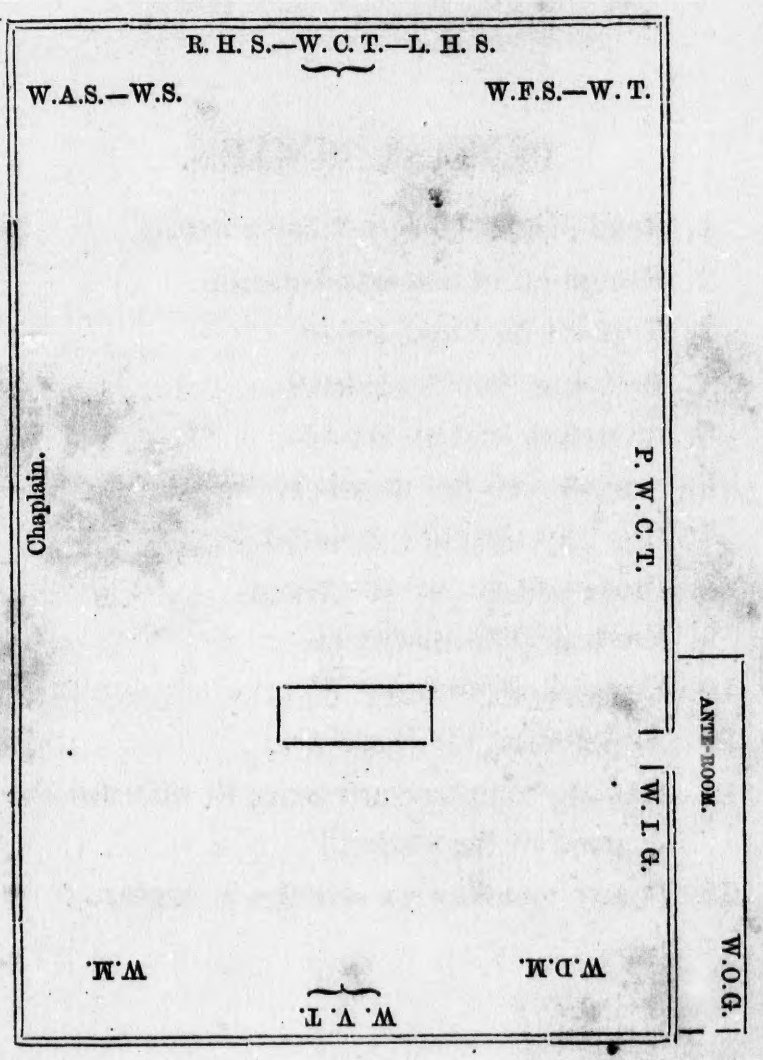
1860.

## GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

Whenever an obligation is to be administered, whether in Installation or Initiation, or at any time, the Lodge should always be called to their feet. When the Lodge is visited by the officers of the Grand Lodge, or their representatives officially, it should rise as they enter the room.

## Diagram of Good Templars' Room.



## ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Read Minutes of previous meeting.
2. Reception of communications.
3. Reports on Candidates.
4. Balloting for Candidates.
5. Initiation of Candidates.
6. Are any of the members sick ?
7. Has any member violated the pledge ?
8. Proposals for membership.
9. Reports of Committees.
10. Unfinished business.
11. Application for Degrees.
12. Has any member anything to offer for the good of the Order ?
13. Is any member six months in arrears ?

# RITUAL.

## OPENING.

[*When the hour arrives for opening the Lodge, the W. C. T. (and in his absence the W. V. T.) will take the chair, and call the Lodge to order.*]

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*W. C. T.* The officers will repair to their respective stations. The Worthy Vice Templar will see that the gates are closed and guarded. The Marshal and Assistant will examine those present, that there may be no intruder to invade our rights.

*W. C. T.* Worthy Marshal, are all the officers at their proper stations?

*M.* [*Reports to W. C. T.*]

[*If any are present without the P. W. and explanation, and are not entitled to receive them, they should be required to leave the room.*]

*W. C. T.* You will now take charge of the

outside door, and desire the Guard to present himself for examination.

*O. G.* [*Enters.*] I wait you pleasure, Worthy Chief.

*W. C. T.* You will give me the pass-word. [*O. G. gives it.*] You will now repair to your station, and carefully perform the duties of your office.

*W. C. T.* Inside Guard, what are the duties of your office.

*I. G.* To keep well the inner gate of this temple ; to allow none to enter unless they first give me the usual signal, and the explanation of the pass-word—unless by your direction, or that of the Worthy Vice.

*W. C. T.* You will now give me the explanation and the pass-word.

*I. G.* [*Gives it.*]

*W. C. T.* You will carefully perform your duties, and allow none to enter or retire during the opening, closing, or initiatory ceremonies, unless specially directed by me.

*W. C. T.* Treasurer, what are the duties of your office ?

*T.* To receive and safely keep all money of the Lodge, and hold it subject to its order.

*W. C. T.* Brother Secretary, what are your duties?

*S.* To keep accurate minutes of the doings of this Lodge.

*W. C. T.* Worthy Vice Templar, what are your duties?

*W. V. T.* To assist you in maintaining order; to do all I can to support the honor of this Lodge; and in your absence, to take your place, and discharge the duties usually devolving upon you.

• • •

*W. C. T.* Officers and members: assembled as we are for a high and noble purpose, permit me to remind you of those duties, the strict observance of which alone can secure the great and worthy objects we have in view.

Let us keep constantly in mind the sacred obligation which binds us together, in Faith,

Hope and Charity. I sincerely hope that this meeting may be rendered profitable to each of us; that our work may be done in harmony, and that we may fully illustrate, this evening, how pleasant it is for the members of this great temperance family to "dwell together in unity."

It is my duty to preside in this meeting, and see that order is strictly observed and enforced, without favor or partiality, which duty I shall endeavor to perform with all diligence.

*W. C. T.* Please sing our

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## OPENING ODE.

AIR—"*Watchman, tell us of the night.*"

Friends of Temperance, welcome here,
  Cheerful are our hearts to-day;
Tell us, we would gladly hear,
  How our cause speeds on its way,

Here we pledge ourselves anew,
  Not to touch the drunkard's drink,
Proving faithful, proving true,
  We will make the demon shrink.

*W. C. T.* You will now be attentive, while the Worthy Chaplain discharges his duty.

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## OPENING PRAYER.

[*W. C. may read a portion of Scripture, and offer the following, or an extempore prayer.*]

*W. C.* Almighty and everlasting God, thou art infinite in perfections, and boundless in thy love to the children of men. Thou art everywhere ; thine eye surveys each one of us ; grant that we may each be sensible of thy presence, and that in our deliberations, we may act in thy fear. Be pleased to pardon all our offences and delinquencies ; let our transgressions be blotted from before thee, for the sake of our Advocate, who is at thy right hand. Hear us, we pray, for the needy and destitute everywhere ; especially let thy mercy rest upon the inebriate, and thy care and benediction be upon his distressed family. Save him from the ruin to which his habits tend, and his family from the disgrace and want which threaten them ; and hasten the hour when the means of intoxication shall be driven from our land. Bless our sovereign and legislators ; grant that

they, with all magistrates and officers, may love and practice temperance, and may their influence be exerted to deliver our land from this fatal scourge. And finally, we ask thee to bless and prosper our beloved Order, wherever it exists; may its influence be like the morning, scattering light and bliss everywhere over our wide earth. And the glory shall be ascribed to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, world without end. *Amen.*

*W. C. T.* My Right Hand Supporter will now open this Lodge.

*R. H. S.* By direction of our Worthy Chief Templar, I declare this Lodge open for the transaction of such business as may properly come before it, and for extending the reign of Faith, Hope and Charity.

*W. C. T.* The Financial Secretary will please call the roll of Officers.

[*Marshal answers for the Officers. Absentees are marked, and pro tem. appointments made.*]

# INITIATION.

[*When the Lodge is ready for initiation, the F. S. shall retire with the D. M. to collect the initiation fee, when the D. M. shall propound to the candidates the following questions:*]

*D.* M. Will you be obedient to all the laws and rules of order connected with this institution—they being consistent with your duties to religion, your family, and your country?

*Answer.* I will.

*D. M.* Will you take a solemn pledge to abstain from the use of all that can intoxicate, as a beverage?

*Ans.* I will.

*D. M.* Do you believe in the existence of Almighty God, who rules and governs all things, and has given us in the Bible, a divine revelation for the guidance of our life and conduct;

*Ans.* I do.

[*The F. S. collects the fee, and the questions having been answered in the affirmative, the officers return to the Lodge room and report.*]

*F. S.* The fee is paid, Worthy Chief.

*D. M.* The usual questions are properly answered, Worthy Chief.

*W. C. T.* The Marshal and Assistant will now repair to the ante-room, and introduce the candidate.

[*The M., taking the candidate by the arm and leading him to the door, gives three raps.*]

*I. G.* There is an alarm at the inner gate, Worthy Vice Templar.

*W. V. T.* You will attend to it.

*I. G.* It is our Marshal, attended by a friend, who seeks admission to our halls.

*W. V. T.* Admit them.

[*The M. conducts the candidate to the chair of the W. C. T.*]

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## ODE.

AIR—"*Bonny Doon or Bridgewater.*"

You're welcome to our social band;
We're pledged in heart, we're joined in hand;
Our hopes elate, our hearts are free,
From every path of vice we flee;
We seek for morals just and pure,
That will our future good insure;
Be firm in truth and temperance,
That our good cause may e'er advance.

*M.* Worthy Chief Templar, permit me to introduce to you our *friend*, who, after due trial, wishes to become a *member* of our Order.

*W. C. T.* My *friend*, your object is truly praiseworthy, and it is with the most unfeigned pleasure that we proceed to comply with your wishes. To reach your object, you must pass through a solemn form of initiation, which is designed to impress you with your duty to this Order and to your race. Here the sons and daughters of our country are assembled to promote the noble cause of Temperance. In all our meetings, as in the presence of God, we enter our solemn protest against the use and sale of all that can intoxicate man, except as they are used in the arts, as a medicine, or at the Lord's Table. The field open before us is wide, and its cultivation demands all our energies. All classes of society have an interest here, and all may labor: hence you find here every class that may be injured by the intoxicating bowl. Here you see male and female,

old and young, all banded against the common enemy. In taking the steps you have, you are now entering upon a course which will, if diligently followed, lead you to the exercise of the three great virtues we wish to teach here—Faith, Hope, and Charity. These are taught us by the Holy Bible, which we take as the rule of our lives, and these we desire to aid you to practice.

With these assurances, and this warning, we shall now proceed to inform you further in relation to the duties of our temple.

Marshal, take charge of our friend, and present him to our W. V. T. for obligation.

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[*Sing the following*]

## ODE.

AIR—"*When shall we meet again?*"

God of mercy, be thou near,
While these vows are spoken here;
Shield the victor, guard and guide,
Where the lurking tempters hide,
Man can strive, but thou alone
Must the final conquest crown.

*W. M.* Worthy Vice Templar, I here present our *friend* for obligation and advancement.

*W. V. T.* My *friend*, I shall be happy to comply with your wishes; but before you can proceed, you must take upon yourself a solemn and binding obligation—one we have all taken, and one which will in nowise conflict with any of your lawful duties. Are you willing to proceed?

## PRAYER.

*W. Chaplain.* Great Source of blessings, God of Love, hear our united prayer for this our *friend* and *neighbor* who is about to enter this field with us, and whose strength is to be expended with ours to drive intemperance from our land. Help him to realize the solemnity of the covenant he is now about to make, and grant that he may have grace to fulfil every obligation—to redeem every pledge. Protect

him from the destroyer's power, and make him the honored instrument of leading many to virtue and peace. Grant, O Lord, that we may be enabled to discharge the duty we owe to him and to his faithfully, so that our union may prove a blessing to us, a source of good to many others, and an honor to thy great name. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with thyself and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe the glory and dominion, forever. *Amen.*

*W. V. T.* You will place your left hand upon the Bible,* your right hand upon your left breast, and assent to the following

## OBLIGATION.

You, of your own free will and accord, in a full belief of the power and existence of Almighty God, and in the presence of the members of this Order, here assembled, do most solemnly promise, that you will not make, buy,

* Although the laying of the hand on the Bible is the form generally used in the Order, yet, whenever a candidate for admission feels a conscientious scruple to do so, he may hold up his hand, or take the obligation in any other form he considers most binding on his conscience.

sell, or use, as a beverage, any spirituous or malt liquors, wine, cider, or other intoxicating drinks. You will faithfully observe the Constitution and By-Laws of this Lodge, or any Grand or Working Lodge of the British American Order of Good Templars, to which you may be attached. You will not, knowingly, wrong a member of this Order, nor see one wronged, without warning them of approaching danger, if it is in your power so to do. You will use all proper and lawful means in your power to promote the good of this Order.—You will never reveal any of its private work or business to any person or persons not entitled to know the same. And in case you should be expelled, or voluntarily withdraw from this Order, you will consider the obligation to keep the secrets of this Order still binding. You also promise that, should any books, papers, or other property belonging to this Order, be entrusted to your keeping, you will faithfully preserve the same, and deliver them up when

legally called upon to do so. To all of which you pledge your sacred honor.

[*Each Candidate answers, I do.*]

*W. M., and all the Lodge in concert.* We witness your obligation and covenant.

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*W. V. T.* You will now accompany the Marshal to the desk of our Financial Secretary, and sign the Constitution, after which he will conduct you to the Past Worthy Chief Templar, who will further inform you of your new relations.

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## SONG.

AIR—"*Old Hundred.*"

Now bound by honor's sacred laws,
Be faithful to our holy cause;
Let truth preserve each member's fame
Nor curses blast our honored name.

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Then welcome to our unionhood,
A cheerful welcome to the good;
Long live our Order's great renown,
And happiness each member crown.

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*M.* Past Worthy Chief Templar, by direction of our Worthy Vice Templar, I present you this friend, to be further instructed in the duties of our Order.

*P. W. C. T.* It affords me much pleasure in extending to you our heart-felt congratulations on the progress you have made in informing yourself of the character of the British American Order of Good Templars; and you may be assured that our best wishes attend you. Your obligation was one of great solemnity; and you are bound by all the ties which honor and religion impose to conduct yourself in such a manner as will never bring reproach upon this Order. You will ever keep in mind your sacred pledge of temperance; and you will remember that one of the great duties of your life is not only to abstain from what can intoxicate, but to prevail on others to do so.

I now welcome you to our circle. [*Takes the candidate by the hand.*] Here you are safe. The destroyer can never enter here. Ever have before you the divine rule, as though it were written in golden characters, "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye even so unto them." Thus will your memory be pleasant unto all; you will have lived to a good and noble purpose; and we hope your end will be peace, and your heaven glorious.

Marshal, you will now introduce our friend to the Worthy Chaplain, for further instruction.

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## ODE.

AIR—"*Zion.*"

Hail we now our new made member,
Linked with us in friendship's chains;
Kind and faithful to each other,
Love will soothe our woes and pains;
Thus progressing,
Blessings follow in our train.

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M. Worthy Chaplain: by order of our

Past Worthy Chief Templar, I present this friend for further information in relation to the duties of this Order.

W. C. Welcome, thrice welcome to our circle of safety and pleasure.

Here you may dwell in peace; hence you did well in taking the solemn obligation you have. Remember that the eye of God was then, is now, and ever will be, upon you. Your acts will be known to Him. Keep, then, that obligation to the end of life.

In relation to the duties which you owe to this Institution, I have a few words to say. It is expected that you will be present at all its meetings, as far as you can do so without injury to your business, your family or friends. Thus you will become acquainted with its business and its forms, and be the better prepared to act efficiently for the promotion of its objects. In your intercourse with the world, shun the way of evil doers. To make this sure, I charge you, in all the purposes of your future life, to take daily counsels from the records of Inspiration. The Bible is a true and safe chart for

the whole voyage of life. There is not a rock or a shoal, in all its tumultuous sea, which is not laid down, or over which it does not throw a beacon light to warn the voyager, and give him safety. It is indeed a light shining in darkness, showing clearly the way in which the oppressed of every country may walk. My *friend*, follow faithfully the teachings of this book—it will lead you to honor and happiness in this world, and to glory and immortal joy in the world to come. Finally, it is your duty to cherish kindly feelings towards all men, and especially towards the members of this Order. If any offend, forgive; and let your example make us happy and more useful, in the imitation of your virtues.

Marshal, you will now introduce the candidate to our Worthy Chief, for the closing ceremonies.

[*The M. will lead the candidate to the chair of the W. C. T.*]

M. Worthy Chief, our friend has complied

with all that our laws demand, and now *comes* for your closing instructions.

W. C. T. I will now instruct you in the signs, pass-words, grips and tokens of this Order.

1. *I will first instruct you in the signs of recognition.*

2. *The pass-word, with its explanation, which is to be given only by the Chief Templar. This I will give you in the course of the evening.*

3. *The grip. The Marshal will now instruct you in the grip.*

*Besides this, we have another test, which is as follows:*

[*No sign, token, grip, or other private work shall be explained by writing, or be spoken, when it can be otherwise communicated.*]

W. C. T. I will now inform you how to work your way into and out of this or any other temple of this Order.

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W. C. T. The members will now form a circle, joining hands.

W. C. T. My Right Hand Supporter will make the proclamation.

R. H. S. Worthy associates, our Chief is about to proclaim this person a member of our Order, is such your will and pleasure?

*All respond.*—It is.

W. C. T. Then in the name of the Grand Lodge of the British American Order of Good Templars, I proclaim this person *a member* of this Lodge, and he is hereby declared to be entitled to all the rights, privileges and protection guaranteed to members by our Constitution and By-Laws; and in this pure element of water we pledge fidelity to our sacred cause. [*Drinks.*]

## DRINK---SONG.

AIR—"*Sparkling and bright.*"

Sparkling and bright in its liquid light,
Is the water in our glasses;
'Twill give you health, 'twill give you wealth,
Ye lads and rosy lasses!

O then resign your ruby wine,
Each faithful British templar;
There's nothing so good for the youthful blood,
Or sweet as the sparling water.

[*Commit to memory.*]

W. C. T. This circle which you see surrounding us is the emblem of perpetual friendship. The union of hands is the sign of the union of hearts and purpose and effort in our pleasant work. Before you join hands with us, I will clothe you as all worthy members should be clothed who appear in this room, in proper regalia. It is hoped you will ever wear this badge with pleasure to yourself and honor to this Order.

You will now take your place and join hands in the circle.

[*The W. C. T. resumes his chair.*]

Now is our Lodge whole, and who that sees the union which prevails here can doubt the stability of our noble institution?

[*Congratulation.*]

## CLOSING.

W. C. T. Worthy Financial Secretary, what are the receipts of the evening?

W. F. S. [*Reports.*]

W. C. T. Has the Treasurer received the same?

T. *Answer*—I have, Worthy Chief.

W. C. T. Worthy Vice Templar, what is your last duty for the evening?

W. V. T. It is to thank the members present for their attendance and order this evening; to bid them be watchful and come to our aid next Lodge night as pure and more strong in our principles than they now leave us.

W. C. T. Worthy Inside Guard, what is the last duty devolving upon you this evening?

I. G. When the Lodge is closed, to open the inner gate of the temple, that all may depart in peace.

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W. C. T. Officers and members: We are about to separate; vicissitudes will surround us; all of us may never meet in this place again. Should this be so, let our lives be so

marked with Faith, Hope and Charity, that we may meet in a better world. But, while we live, let us keep our pledge inviolate, and may the smiles of our Father in heaven ever bless our path.

## CLOSING ODE.

AIR—"*Sicilian Hymn.*"

Heavenly Father, give thy blessing,
While we now this meeting end;
On our minds each truth impressing
That may to thy glory tend.

Save from all intoxication,
From its fountain may we flee;
When assailed by strong temptation,
Put our trust alone in thee.

W. C. T. Our Worthy Chaplain will now do his duty.

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## PRAYER OR BENEDICTION.

W. C. Almighty God, we thank thee for this, another Lodge meeting; and now we entreat that if, in our deliberations, words have been spoken or feelings indulged that were not

pleasing to thee, thou wilt forgive us. And as we go abroad in the world, may thy protecting hand be over us; may thy providence lead us; and in all we do, may we not be forgetful that thine eye is upon us, and that we must give an account to thee for all we do. And when the pilgrimage of this life is ended, receive us to heavenly mansions, through the mercy of Him who died for us. To whom, with the Father and Holy Spirit, be glory and dominion, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

W. C. T. My Left Hand Supporter will now close the Lodge.

L. H. S. By request of our Worthy Chief Templar, I now declare this Lodge duly closed until next Lodge night, at o'clock, when it will be again opened for the transaction of all business pertaining to this Order, and for the diffusion of the principles of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

# INSTALLATION.

[*The Officers should be installed by a G. W. C. T., special Deputy, or Degree Templar, who, when the time arrives, attended by his Grand Officers, gives the entering signal.*]

I. G. The Grand Worthy Chief Templar, attended by the Grand Officers.

W. C. T. Admit them.

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[*As they march in, they form in a line fronting the W. C. T., whom they salute.*]

G. W. C. T. Our business here this evening is to install the officers of this Lodge. Are they elected ?

W. C. T. They are.

G. W. C. T. You will direct the officers of this Lodge to vacate their seats, which will be temporarily filled by the Grand Officers in attendance ; and you will now take your seat as Past Worthy Chief Templar for the present term.

W. C. T. The officers of this Lodge will now surrender the books, papers, or other

trusts reposed in them, and divest themselves of the badges to their respective offices, and vacate their seats.

[*The Grand Officers will now take their places.*]

G. W. C. T. The Worthy Grand Marshal will now repair to the ante-room with the officers elect, where he will examine them in their qualifications for the offices to which they have been elected.

[*The Grand Marshal will give the usual signal.*]

G. G. The Worthy Grand Marshal, attended by the officers elect, asks admittance.

G. W. C. T. You will please admit them.

## INSTALLATION ODE.

AIR—"*Auld Lang Syne.*"

Whatever station we may fill
In this exalted band,
Our plighted duties we shall still
Achieve with heart and hand.

And evermore, through good and ill,
By one another stand,
Whatever station we may fill
In this exalted band.

G. M. Grand Worthy Chief Templar, I present you the officers elect of this Lodge, to be installed in their respective offices for the present term.

G. W. C. T. The officers elect may be seated, and the Marshal will present them in their turn to be installed.

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[*The Marshal will then present the O. G. elect.*]

G. M. Grand Worthy Chief Templar, the Outside Guard of this Lodge.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Outside Guard, you will take charge of the outer gate of this temple during the present term. It will be your duty to guard all passages to it with caution; to prevent all improper intrusion; to receive the password, to open the outer gate to all worthy members of this Order; to see that all persons, before giving the alarm at the inner gate of this temple, are clothed in proper regalia, or otherwise fitted to enter our sacred retreat; to act in conjunction with the Inside Guard, and in all things to obey the Worthy Chief Templar. You will now proceed to the duties of your office.

G. M. [*Presenting the I. G.*] Grand Wor-

thy Chief Templar, I present you the Worthy Inside Guard of this Lodge.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Inside Guard, it is your duty to take charge of the inner gate of this temple; to open or close it, as the proper signal or pass-word may be given you; to report alarms to the Worthy Vice Templar, and receive the explanation of the pass-word, to act in conjunction with the Outside Guard, and to obey the direction of the Vice and Chief Templar. You will now enter upon the duties of your office.

G. M. Grand Worthy Chief Templar, I here present, for installation, the Worthy Treasurer elect of this Lodge.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Grand Marshal, have you examined the Worthy Treasurer elect, so that you are satisfied that he has attained the proper rank in this Order for that important office?

G. M. I have, and am satisfied of his eligibility.

G. W. C. T. Is he clear of the books?

G. M. He is.

G. W. C. T. Has he executed the proper bond, and has it been approved?

G. M. He has, and it has been approved.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Treasurer elect, I need not remind you that the duty in which you are about to engage is one of great importance, and one which will require, on your part, great care. It is your duty to see that the funds entrusted to you are safely kept, that no loss may accrue; to meet and pay all orders that may be properly drawn on you; and at the close of your term to place in the hands of the Grand Treasurer, or his representative, all books, papers, funds, or other property, which may have been entrusted to your keeping by this Lodge. You will now repair to the seat of your office, attended by the Grand Marshal, where you will receive the usual obligation.

G. M. Worthy Grand Treasurer, I am attended by the Worthy Treasurer elect of this Lodge, who comes to receive the obligation and the insignia of his office.

W. G. T. You will place your right hand

upon your left breast, and assent to the obligation pertaining to your office.

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## OBLIGATION.

You [A. B.] in the presence of the members of this Lodge, do solemnly promise to discharge all duties pertaining to the office of Treasurer of this Lodge, during the present term, according to the best of your ability.—You will preserve all funds, books, or other property which may be entrusted to you, from damage or loss. Nor will you allow anything which ought to be kept secret, pertaining to this Order, to be exposed, if it is in your power to prevent it. You will faithfully deliver up all books, papers, or other property which may have been entrusted to you, to the Grand Treasurer, or his representative, for the use of this Lodge, at the expiration of your term of office. To the true and faithful performance of all which you pledge your sacred honor.

G. M. I now invest you with the regalia appropriate to your office, which, as often as you put on, should remind you of the confidence of your associates here, and of the obligation you are under to them.

G. T. I present you these books and keys, which you will hold as sacred deposits. Keep them in such neatness and decency, as that in coming time they shall be your highest praise. You will now take this chair, which you will occupy for the present term.

G. M. Grand Worthy Chief Templar: I present the Worthy Secretary elect of this Lodge, for installation.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Marshal, have you examined the Worthy Secretary elect, and are you satisfied that he possesses the proper qualifications for the position to which he has been elected?

G. M. I have, Worthy Chief, and am satisfied that he is every way worthy.

G. W. C. T. Worthy Secretary elect: I trust that it is not without due consideration

that you have consented to assume the duties of the position to which you are about to be elevated. I hardly need remind you that they are trying as well as important; that they will demand constant attention, patience and diligence. Your duty will give you the charge of the books of this Lodge, with which no one has a right to interfere, except the Worthy Chief Templar of your own Lodge, the Worthy Vice Templar and the Grand Worthy Chief Templar or his Deputy—except by your permission.—You will keep correct minutes of all transactions in your Lodge, conduct the correspondence; in a word, you will be the historian of your Lodge for the present term of your service.

Having full confidence in your qualifications and integrity, I will now direct you, in company with the Worthy Marshal, to the seat of the Grand Secretary, where you will be duly installed into your office.

*G. M.* Worthy Grand Secretary, the Secretary elect is before you, for induction to his office.

G. W. S. The Secretary elect will assume the attitude for receiving the obligation.

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## OBLIGATION.

You, [A. B.,] of your own free will and accord, in the presence of the members of the British American Order of Good Templars here present, do solemnly promise, that you will discharge the duties of Secretary of this Lodge, during the present term, to the best of your ability. You will draw and sign all orders that may be required, by a legal vote of this Lodge, and no other. You will conduct the correspondence that may be required, as near the intent and wish of the Lodge as you possibly can. You will keep the record of proceedings with all possible exactness, and you will protect all books and records, that may be entrusted to you, from hurt, or improper observation; and at the expiration of the term of your office, you will deliver over to the Grand Secretary, or his representative, or the Worthy Chief Templar of this Lodge, or

to your superior in office, all that this Lodge may have entrusted to your care. To the faithful performance of all which you pledge your sacred honor.

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*G. M.* I hereby invest you with the badge and the insignia of your office, which I hope you will wear with honor to yourself, and with profit to this Order.

*G. W. S.* I present you with the books of this Lodge, which you will receive in trust, to be kept by you during the term of your office. You will now take your seat as Secretary of this Lodge, during the current term.

*G. M.* Grand Worthy Chief Templar: I present the Worthy Vice Templar elect, of this Lodge, to be installed into that office.

*G. W. C. T.* Have you examined the Vice Templar elect, and do you know him to be qualified for that important position?

*G. M.* I have, and judge him to be well qualified,

*G. W. C. T.* Worthy Vice Templar, the

duty you are called to fill is one of importance. During Lodge hours you will have charge of the inner gate of this Temple ; you will see that those who are admitted are properly dressed and qualified, and that the signs are correctly given. In case admission should be asked by one, of whose worthiness you are in doubt, you will submit the question to the Worthy Chief Templar. You will do all you can to maintain the order and harmony of the Lodge, and in the absence of the Worthy Chief Templar, you will occupy his chair, and, for the time being, perform his duties.

You will now proceed with the Grand Marshal to the chair of your office, for the closing ceremonies of your installation.

*G. M.* Grand Worthy Vice Templar : I introduce to you the Worthy Vice Templar elect, for the closing ceremonies of his installation.

*G. W. V. T.* Worthy Vice Templar, you will assume the attitude for receiving the obligation.

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## OBLIGATION.

You, [A. B.,] solemnly promise, in the presence of the members of the British American Order of Good Templars here assembled, that you will, according to the best of your ability, perform all the duties pertaining to the office of Vice Templar of this Lodge. That you will abide by and enforce the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of the British American Order of Good Templars, and that you will maintain the Constitution and By-Laws of this Lodge.—That you will, to the extent of your power, assist the presiding officer of this Lodge in maintaining order; and to the utmost of your ability, will discharge all the duties of Vice Templar during the present term. To the true and faithful performance of all which you pledge your sacred honor.

*G. M.* It is with confidence that I invest you with this regalia. May you wear it with honor to yourself and profit to the members of this Lodge.

*G. W. V. T.* It is with pleasure that I welcome you to this post of honor; from this point, as from a watch-tower, keep a vigilant watch over the interests of this Lodge, that nothing may mar its harmony. You will now take your seat as Vice Templar for this term.

*G. M.* Worthy Grand Chief Templar: I have the pleasure of introducing to you, for installation, our Worthy brother, [A. B.,] who has been elected Chief Templar of this Lodge.

*G. W. C. T.* Brother [A. B.,) you will place yourself in the attitude for receiving the obligation.

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## OBLIGATION.

You, [A. B.,] do, in the presence of the members of this Order, here assembled, of your own free will and accord, most solemnly promise and covenant, that in the discharge of the office of Chief Templar of this Lodge, of the British American Order of Good Templars, you will be obedient to the mandate of the officers of the Grand Lodge of this Order; that you

will maintain the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge, as well as of this Lodge; that without fear or partiality you will preside over the deliberations of this Lodge, and administer, as far as you can, justice and privilege to all and each. You will do your best to promote the interests of this Order, and the cause of Temperance. You will faithfully preserve from loss and injury the Charter and books of this Lodge; and should they be constitutionally and legally called for by the officers of the Grand Lodge, you will deliver them up. You will do all you can to promote the welfare of the members of this Lodge. To the true and faithful performance of all these duties, during the present term, to the best of your ability, you pledge your sacred honor.

G. W. C. T. As an evidence of our confidence in your integrity and competence, we now clothe you in the regalia of your office, which we trust you will wear with pleasure and honor. I also commit to your keeping the

Charter of your Lodge, which you will hold in trust for them. You will also receive this Gavel, which you will hold as a badge of your authority. *with this you will seat the Lodge, while * * will call them to their feet. * * * will call the Lodge to order.

I need not speak to you of the great importance of the position you occupy. You are the guardian of this whole company. All the interests of their weekly gatherings will be under your eye. Be faithful, and may large prosperity attend you. You will now take your seat as presiding officer of this Lodge, during the present term, and proceed to fill your appointed offices.

[*The W. C. T. will appoint his Right and Left Hand Supporters. The Secretary will select his Assistant and the Marshal his Deputy. As they are appointed, they proceed to the chair of their office. The appointments having been made, the G. W. C. T. proceeds.*]

G. W. C. T. WORTHY FINANCIAL SECRETARY: As a skilful accountant you are to keep a correct account between the Lodge and its members, and pay the receipts of each evening

to the Treasurer, taking his receipt for the same. Let the integrity with which you will discharge these important duties be your highest encomium, and your reward be the satisfaction of having discharged a noble duty, and of having done it well.

WORTHY MARSHAL: You will take charge of the regalia of this Lodge, and see that it is kept clean and in order. You will look to the comfort of all who may attend here. You will assist at the opening of the Lodge; and at the initiation of candidates, you will give the charge of your office, and perform such other duties as the Worthy Chief Templar may direct.

WORTHY ASSISTANT MARSHAL: You will assist the Marshal in the performance of his duties, and be obedient to any directions he may give you.

WORTHY ASSISTANT SECRETARY: It is your duty to assist your principal as he may from time to time direct.

WORTHY CHAPLAIN : I hardly need speak on the solemn and interesting duties which devolve upon you. It is your duty to make the opening and closing prayer ; to invoke the Divine blessing on the candidate to be initiated ; to counsel the members ; to point them to the Word of Life ; and to have a general oversight of the work and deportment of members, that in coming here they may be benefitted morally, as well as intellectually and physically.

RIGHT AND LEFT HAND SUPPORTERS OF THE WORTHY CHIEF TEMPLAR : It is your duty to assist the Worthy Chief in the performance of his duties ; should he overlook any part of his duty, it is your business to remind him of it. And the Worthy Right Hand Supporter may occupy his chair when temporarily vacated by him. It will also be his duty to assist at initiations, and to open the Lodge in due form. The Left Hand Supporter will close the Lodge in due form.

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[*To all.*]

You are now regularly organized, with all the parts of your government complete. Act together in harmony; let the members honor their officers, and the officers faithfully serve the members; striving together to advance the great principle we have in view—Faith Hope and Charity. And now, by the authority vested in me, and in the name of the British American Grand Lodge of Good Templars, I declare this Lodge duly organized, and the officers properly installed for this term.

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# OPENING OF NEW LODGES.

[*A new Lodge should be opened by a G. W. C. Templar, or some one who may be specially deputized by him; and if practicable, he should be attended by several members of the Order. When they are assembled at the place of meeting, the G. W. C. T. will take the chair of the W. C. T., and, assisted by the members by whom he is accompanied, will proceed to initiate such of the applicants for the Charter as have not before been initiated, and confer the several degrees. Or, in case he should be unattended by members of the Order, he may proceed to administer the obligation, and institute the Lodge; after which the G. W. C. T. will call the applicants forward read the Charter of the Lodge, and give the following charge.*]

## CHARGE.

Brothers, we are here assembled for a noble and worthy purpose. The object you will have in view in your meetings will be the elevation of human character, and the alleviation of human woes. In this you will have the assistance of a great number of persons who are associated with you in this Order throughout different parts of our country. I commit to you this CHARTER, to be held under our wholesome laws for those purposes. You will hold and defend it with all diligence. And now, committing it to your keeping, I by the authority vested in me by the British American Order of Good Templars, pronounce this ——— Lodge, No. ——, duly and properly instituted.

[*The G. W. C. T. still retains the Chair, while the Lodge elect their officers, after which he proceeds to install as in ordinary cases.*]

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